

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0701

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SV, NO
SUBJECT: NORWEGIANS PNG SOVIET COUNSELOR
INVOLVED IN SPY CASE

REFS: (A) OSLO 0640 (B) OSLO 0605 (C) OSLO 480 (D) OSLO 0521

1. NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DISCREETLY REQUESTED DEPARTURE OF COUNSELOR OF SOVIET EMBASSY FOR INVOLVEMENT IN SPY AFFAIR. HE IS SEVENTH SOVIET PNG'ED IN CURRENT ESPIONAGE CASES. ON FEB 7, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED ON GOOD AUTHORITY, MFA AUTHORITIES CALLED IN SOVIET AMBASSADOR KIRICHENKO TO ASK HIM TO SEE THAT SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR G.F. TITOV LEAVES NORWAY SOON BECAUSE OF HIS DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN ESPIONAGE CASE INVOLVING ARRESTED NORWEGIAN MFA OFFICIAL GUNVOR HAAVIK.

2. NORWEGIANS INFORMED KIRICHENKI THAT EVIDENCE IN THE HAAVIK CASE CLEARLY IMPLICATES TITOV AND HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE IN NORWAY IS UNDESIREABLE AND WILL CREATE PROBLEMS FOR SOVIET-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS. THEY TOLD KIRICHENKO THAT GON DID NOT PLAN TO PUBLICIZE TITOV'S EXPULSION AND THEY HOPED HE WOULD DEPART QUIETLY AND SOON.

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3. GOVERNMENT DECISION WAS APPARENTLY TAKEN AFTER CABINET MEETING FEB 7. STORTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED NEXT DAY.

4. COMMENT: GON OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY SAID THEY DID NOT PLAN TO PUBLICIZE MATTER, AND MFA HAS SAID NOTHING. PRESS HAD BEEN ALLEGING THAT OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS MAY HAVE BEEN IN-

VOLVED, AND REASONABLY ACCURATE UNATTRIBUTED ARTICLES STATING TITOV WAS BEING KICKED OUT APPEARED IN OSLO PRESS AS EARLY AS FEB. 9.

5. GON HAS APPARENTLY BEEN FORCED TO TAKE BULL BY THE HORNS IN TITOV CASE. NORWEGIAN INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICE HAVE PUT FINGER ON THE SOVIET DIPLOMAT, WHO HAS BEEN HERE FIVE YEARS, AS SOVIET KGB CHIEF IN NORWAY AND ONE OF SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN HAAVIK SPY CASE. GON HAS BEEN SEEKING TO DOWNPLAY SPY INCIDENTS AND SEPARATE THEM FROM OTHER BILATERAL RELATIONS. THEY WERE HOPING THAT MILD SOVIET REACTION (REFTEL A) WAS INDICATOR THAT SOVIETS ALSO WANT TO LOW-KEY THE EXPULSIONS. BUT IT APPEARS THAT EMERGING EVIDENCE OF TITOV'S ROLE IN HAAVIK CASE IS SO CLEAR AND COMPLETE THAT GON RECOGNIZES HE MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE HE BECOMES AN EMBARRASSMENT TO GON. GOVERNMENT CAN ONLY WAIT NOW TO SEE WHAT, IF ANY, ADDITIONAL RETALIATION THE LATEST EXPULSIONS WILL PRECIPITATE.
ANDERS

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